

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,988

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Applicant(s)

KARAGIANNIS ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/27/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-7 is the inclusion of a replacement electronic module for use in a printer consumable unit. The replacement electronic module has a first I/O port, a second I/O port, and a third I/O port; and a circuitry that sends and receives initially data from the printer through the first I/O port. The circuitry tests the functionality of the first I/O port by directing the third port to source current and drive the external contact to a predetermined voltage, and reads a voltage received by the first I/O port in response to sourced current. The circuitry determines the first I/O is not functioning correctly based on the read voltage, the circuitry will send data to and receive the data from the printer through the second I/O port. This is found in all of claims 1-7, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 8-13 is the inclusion of a method of verifying the functionality of a replacement electronic component attached to a printer consumable unit. The replacement electronic component has a first I/O port, a second I/O port, and a third I/O port; and a circuitry that sends and receives initially data from the printer through the first I/O port. The steps comprises testing the functionality of the first I/O port, and if the circuitry determines the first I/O is not functioning correctly based on the sending and receiving data through the second I/O port; and storing an indication of the non-functionality of the first I/O port in a memory. This is found in all of claims 8-13, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 14 is the inclusion of an electronic device for use in a printer consumable unit of an image forming apparatus. The electronic device has a first I/O port, a second I/O port, and a third I/O port; and a circuitry that sends and receives initially data through the first I/O port. The circuitry tests the functionality of the first I/O port by directing the third port to source current and drive the external contact to a predetermined voltage, and reads a voltage received by the first I/O port in response to sourced current. If the circuitry determines the first I/O is not functioning correctly, the circuitry will send data to and receive the data from the printer through the second I/O port. This is found in all of claim 14, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 15 is the inclusion of an electronic module for use in a printer consumable unit. The electronic module has a first I/O port, a second I/O port, a memory for storing data, a third I/O port, and a circuitry that receives initially data through the first I/O port. The circuitry tests the functionality of the first I/O port by directing the third port to source current and drive the external contact to a predetermined voltage, and reads a voltage received by the first I/O port in response to sourced current. If the circuitry determines the first I/O is not functioning correctly based on the read voltage, the circuitry will receive data through the second I/O port. This is found in all of claim 15, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852